

Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin

Whereas, the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware share 13,539 square miles that comprise the Delaware River Basin;

Whereas, almost seven percent of the nation's population rely on the Delaware River Basin's waters for drinking and industrial use; and

Whereas, the Delaware River, the last major undammed river in the East, is a unique ecosystem that provides a multitude of natural, economic, and recreational benefits for all its inhabitants by being a key part of the Eastern Flyway, having the most abundant horseshoe crab population in the world, having wetlands designated of international significance for shorebirds, and having the second largest freshwater port in the nation; and

Whereas, National Estuary Day is October 2nd and we recognize the importance of the Delaware Estuary Program; and

Whereas, numerous organizations have the primary responsibility for protecting, maintaining, and restoring the integrity of the waters of the Delaware River Basin ecosystem; and

Whereas, our state environmental agencies, our Delaware River Basin Commission, our Delaware Estuary Program, the National Park Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and five non-profit organizations representing diverse sectors of the basin community initiated a multi-step process called the "Flowing Toward the Future" to examine visions and directions for the 21st century Delaware River Basin; and

Whereas, those organizations have reaffirmed their commitment and dedication to the Delaware River Basin; and

Whereas, the participants of "Flowing Toward the Future" have consolidated views, challenges, directions, and visions for the Delaware River Basin; and

Whereas, as trustees of the Basin's natural resources, the Delaware River Basin Governors have a shared duty to protect, conserve, and manage the Delaware River Basin waters and ecosystem; and

Whereas, the Delaware River Basin Governors want to continue to address the concerns and challenges of the public through processes like "Flowing Toward the Future";

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Delaware River Basin Governors support the "Flowing Toward the Future" public process and thank the workshop participants for their interest in the Delaware River Basin and their valuable input into the "Flowing Toward the Future" process and its findings; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the signatory states to the

Delaware Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan recommit to Its implementation; and

Be It Further Resolved, that we the Governors challenge the basin community to develop a unifying vision for the basin; and

And Be It Finally Resolved that we the Governors direct the Delaware River Basin Commission to develop a new comprehensive water resources plan for the Basin, periodically compile and environmental goals and indicators report, and establish a watershed advisory council.

Signed this 29th day of September, in the Year 1999:

*Thomas R. Carper
Governor, State of Delaware*

*Christine Todd Whitman
Governor, State of New Jersey*

*George E. Pataki
Governor, State of New York*

*Thomas J. Ridge
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

The United State Environmental Protection Agency as an official member of the Delaware Estuary Program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers as the federal representative of the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the National Park Service as a major federal land and water manager in the Delaware River Basin, hereby affirm their support of the Governors' Actions taken this day by the signing of this Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin.

Signed this 29th day of September, in the Year 1999:

*Jeanne Fox
Regional Administrator, EPA Region II*

*Michael McCabe
Regional Administrator, EPA Region III*

*Brigadier General M. Stephen Rhoades
Commander, North Atlantic Division
US Army Corps of Engineers*

*Marie Rust
Regional Director
Northeast Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior*

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